



Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilot

Atlanta, GA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA Region 4 has selected the City of Atlanta for a Regional Brownfields Pilot. Industrial and residential areas are mixed throughout Atlanta's urban core, with large industries surrounded by small, single-family homes and public housing projects. The City has established their own Empowerment Zone of 30 neighborhoods (population 50,000) and the Atlanta Empowerment Zone Corporation to implement their plans. Atlanta has identified 10 verified and 36 potential brownfields in the Empowerment Zone that may be contaminated with a number of toxic pollutants. Several areas contain vacant and abandoned warehouses that have become dumping grounds for waste and toxic chemicals. Ninety percent of the population is African-American, and most are below the poverty line. One study has shown that 83 percent of the City's contaminated sites are located in African-American neighborhoods.

OBJECTIVES

Atlanta plans to: 1) inventory brownfields within the Empowerment Zone; 2) develop financing tools to encourage industry involvement in brownfields redevelopment; 3) provide environmental justice planning to develop sustainable communities; and 4) build a cohesive brownfields redevelopment strategy and project management capacity.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Atlanta, Georgia

Date of Award:
September 1996

Amount: \$100,000

Site Profile: The Pilot targets 10 verified and 36 potential brownfields with varied levels of contamination, interspersed throughout the City's Empowerment Zone. Environmental audits will be conducted at up to three of these sites.

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Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Pilot has:

- Begun environmental assessments, and will undertake a minimum of three Level I and one Level II environmental audits.

The Pilot is:

- Building a brownfields inventory database;
- Producing a site identification brochure that will be the beginning of an aggressive public communications strategy and demonstration project;
- Developing remediation processes and cost analyses;
- Creating a central oversight process for reviewing technical elements of site remediation, including legal and insurance liability risks; and
- Involving community partners including Clark Atlanta University and neighborhood planning boards in organizing workshops, community meetings, and outreach efforts.

LEVERAGING OTHER ACTIVITIES

Experience with the Atlanta Pilot has been a catalyst for related activities including the following.

- The Metro Area Chamber of Commerce formed a Brownfields Issue Work Group. The Work Group's technical subcommittees have provided support to the City's brownfields efforts.
- The Brownfields Issue Work Group has also provided the City with free legal services and financial assistance relating to liability, insurance, and lending concerns.